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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/758,044	01/16/2004	Pung Yeun Cho	1594.1354	6149

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EXAMINER

BASICAS, ALFRED

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3749

DATE MAILED: 12/15/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/758,044

Applicant(s)

CHO, PUNG YEUN

Examiner

Alfred Basichas

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 October 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 and 6-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 6-9, 11, 12 and 14-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4, 10 and 13 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 16 January 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-3, 6-9, 11, 12, 14,15, and 17-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sann (5,968,574), which shows all of the claimed limitations. Sann shows, among other things, a steam oven including a cooking cavity 12, steam generator 78,80,82, steam pipes 50,52, a plurality of irregularly shaped and bent steam distributing pipes 52b directed at different areas of the cavity, flow control adjustable by a user in the form of control circuit 60, button 62, switch box 58, timer 64, solenoid valve 56 positioned in the pipe 50, and an end wall 16,20 adjacent the steam pipe.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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4. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

5. Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sann (5,968,574), which discloses substantially all of the claimed limitations. Sann does not specifically recite that the distributing pipe is produced by pressing stainless steel. While the reference may be silent as to how the apparatus is manufactured, the prior art apparatus appears to be the same as claimed. This product-by-process limitation would not be expected to impart distinctive structural characteristics to the apparatus. Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have utilized any process including that which is recited in the claims to have produced the distributing pipe by pressing stainless steel. *Note: Applicant may overcome this rejection by providing evidence that the claimed product-by-process limitation imparts a distinctive structural characteristic to the claimed invention, but a statement or argument by Applicant will not be deemed factual evidence. **Of course, even if evidence were provided to overcome anticipation, one would still need to assess whether it would have been a prima facie obvious method.***

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 4, 10, and 13 are allowed.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicants' arguments with regard to the rejected claims, filed October 31, 2005, have been considered, but are not deemed fully persuasive.

a. Applicant asserts that the teachings of Sann would not apply to the present invention because Sann is related to a steam oven with a steam generator 78, 80, 82 that is outside of the steam oven (FIG. 1) and Sann teaches away from the present invention. In response to applicant's argument that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies are not recited in the rejected claims. Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

b. Applicant asserts that Sann fails to show a sectional control part, which is defined in the Specifications as:

"The sectional area control plate 23 and the plurality of support ribs 25 define a sectional area control part 24 in the upper portion of the steam feed pipe 21 to control a flow speed of the steam, which is fed from the steam generator 20 into the cooking cavity 11 through the steam feed pipe 21."

However, applicant has clearly overlooked Column 5, lines 20-25, of Sann, which specifically recite a solenoid valve 56 attached to the feed pipe 54

for controlling the flow. Again, applicant is reminded that although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims and the language of the claims is given the broadest reasonable interpretation.

Conclusion

8. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alfred Basichas whose telephone number is 571 272 4871. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday during regular business hours.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ehud Gartenberg can be reached on 571 272 4828. The fax phone

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numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703 872 9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Tech Center telephone number is 571 272 3700.

December 9, 2005


Alfred Basichas
Primary Examiner